

PAARA



GRAPHS

AUGUST 1990



PAARA FIELD DAY 1990 A REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE PALO ALTO AMATEUR
RADIO ASSOCIATION
AND

THE MENLO PARK C.Q. AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PAARA



PALO ALTO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

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PAARA POLICIES

Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAGraphs. Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026

Club Net 147.45 MHz Mondays 8:30 PM

Meet at 7:30 PM on the first Friday of each month at the Menlo Park Recreation Center.

Send PAARAGraphs correspondence to:

Chuck Johnson N6VFH, EDITOR
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San Jose, CA 95127

VOLUME 33

AUGUST 1990

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

AS CAN BE SEEN IN LILY N6PGM'S QST IN THIS ISSUE, PAARA HAS ENTERED INTO A NEW ERA OF DEDICATION AND COOPERATION WITH THE CITY OF MENLO PARK. FURTHER INFO ON THAT WILL BE FORTHCOMING AT THE AUG. 3 MEETING. ALSO TAKE NOTE OF THE FIELD DAY INFO INCLUDED HEREWITH. A COPY OF THE FD '90 SCORESHEET APPEARS UNDER PRESIDENT'S CORNER. TIL NEXT MONTH, 73 DE YOUR EDITOR.

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

MIKE HENSON, WA6CTP

ON AMATEUR RADIO ASTRONOMY.....
MIKE HAS APPLIED OSCAR EQUIPMENT TO ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATION. MIKE WILL TELL US HOW HE UTILIZED HIS HAM RADIO INTEREST & INTEREST IN AMATEUR ASTRONOMY AND WAS ABLE TO MAKE OBSERVATIONS USING HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT. DON'T MISS IT!

SEPTEMBER: PAT GIBBONS WA6UBE, SENIOR COMM. TECH., CITY OF SAN JOSE, WHO COLLECTS OLD MILITARY COMM EQUIPMENT. PAT WILL BRING ALONG A TRAILER CHOCK FULL OF WWII & OTHER MILITARY RADIOS & ALL YOU OLDE TIMERS WITH SEA STORIES OUGHT NOT TO MISS THE SEPT. PROGRAM. BETCHA FRED K6YT WILL SAY "I USED ONE OF THOSE!"

DINNER WITH SPEAKER, SU HONG'S, EL CAMINO OFF RAVENSWOOD, MENLO PARK, 5:45PM OF MEETING FRIDAY AUGUST 3RD. -DE ANDY VE3FZK

PAARA PROGRAM
CHAIRMAN.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Important Information

do not write above this line



Field Day

1. Field Day Call Used W6OTX 2. Club or group name PALO ALTO ARA

3. Field Day location End of Bay Road, East Palo Alto

4. Check if you began set-up prior to 1800 UTC Saturday. 5. Number of people participating in this operation. 30 6. Number of transmitters in simultaneous operation. 3

7. Entry Class (check one only):

- A. Club or non-club group portable
- B. Non-club portable 1 op 2 op list operators
- C. Mobile
- D. Home station (commercial power)
- E. Home station (emergency power)

8. Power source

- Generator Battery
- Commercial mains Other

Packet

9. Call sign of Novice/Technician station NBYUE
(class 2A and above)

11. Total CW QSOs 580 \times 2 = 1160

Total phone QSOs 1275 \times 1 = 1275

Total QSO points 2435

QSOs	CW		PHONE	
	QSOs	Power Output	QSOs	Power Output
160			160	
80			80	
40	190	90	40	79
20	240	90	20	834
15	126	90	15	292
10			10	
6			6	
2	24	10	2	5
Other			Other	10
Other			Other	35

Natural
Power
Satellite

580	CW QSOs	1275	PHONE QSOs
<u>A</u>	Novice CW QSOs	<u>46</u>	Novice PHONE QSOs
580	Total CW QSOs	1275	Total PHONE QSOs

12. Total QSO points 2435 \times Power Multiplier (5 W or less, \times 5; 150 W or less, \times 2; over 150 W, \times 1) 2
equals Claimed Score (less bonus points) 4870

13. Bonus points

Attach proof required for all bonus points claimed. All bonus points will be added at ARRL HQ

- 100% Emergency power
- Media Publicity
- Location in Public Place
- Information Booth
- Message to SM

- WIAW Field Day message
- Messages Handled (no.) _____
- Satellite
- Natural Power
- Packet Radio
- Other _____

14. This certifies that the station whose call appears above was operated in accordance with the current Field Day rules and that, to the best of my knowledge, the points and scores set forth in the above summary are correct and true. This station was operated in accordance with FCC rules and regulations. I agree to be bound by any decision of the ARRL Awards Committee.

Date 18 July 10 Signed G H Tucker Call W6LNV signature/call of club president

15. Full mailing address (please print):

Name G H Tucker

Address 1112 Ramona St

Palo Alto Calif 94301

415 963266 w



SCARES UPDATE BY LILY N6PGM

WE DID IT AGAIN. WE PROVIDED ENTHUSIASTIC & CAPABLE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PENINSULA CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION'S 51ST JULY 4TH PARADE IN REDWOOD CITY. THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE PARTICIPATED:

PAT KB6HZM; ANDY VE3FZK; DUSTY K6MPN;
DICK K6ANN; MELODYE N6YUM; STEVE N6YUE;
RUTH N6XMO; ROGER WD6DGT; DAVE N6UOW;
LILY N6PGM; CAP KJ6KV; TOM K6JBR;
LARRY W6KZJ; BOB W6BEK; DAN WB6STW.

THE JULY 19TH MEETING AT THE MENLO PARK COUNCIL CHAMBERS WAS WELL ATTENDED BY 33 SCARES MEMBERS & GUESTS INCLUDING: BILL AA6PA; GREG KK6LA; ANDY K6EHS; RON W6VG; & JIM WA6NIL. THE "ANTENNA IN A TREE" WILL BE UP & OPERATING BY THE TIME THIS IS PUBLISHED. WE WILL BE PARTICIPATING WITH THE CITY OF MENLO PARK IN EMERGENCY EXERCISES IN THE NEAR FUTURE. (MORE ABOUT THIS AT THE AUG 3 PAARA MEETING.) THE SEPT 20TH SCARES MEETING WILL ONCE AGAIN BE HELD IN THE MENLO PARK COUNCIL CHAMBERS & WILL START WITH A TOUR OF THE EOC AT 7:30 P.M.

THANKS & SEE YOU ALL THERE.

LILY N6PGM

FIELD DAY QST DE JOHN WB7TEM

FIELD DAY 1990, THE OPERATION (Not The Movie)
or How It Looked From My Perch
by John Gomperts, WB7TEM

I almost did not make the deadline to get my annual two-cents-worth in, regarding the Field Day extravaganza. But Chuck, N6YFH, kept badgering me for it (RIGHT UP TO THE DEADLINE!!). He must be an ill individual if he desires to print, much less read these musings of a meandering mind. Sorry you had to work so hard, Chuck. These are busy times for the Proletariat.

Where did it all begin. Let's start with Friday. That is, not to slight those individuals who sorted out the antenna pieces parts the previous weekend. Pretty much the same as last year, and the year before, and etc., ad infinitum. Bleary-eyed Jerry, WA6LNV, fresh (?) home from another one of his whirlwind trips, paraded his crew of volunteers through the tower-erection process. Then up went the antennas. One slight change: a 10 Meter monobander was stacked above the 20 Meter monobander (I really didn't believe we would be able to raise it in one piece). Don't believe we used it once, however, it looked impressive. The 15 meter affair went up with a little more strain this year. Seems we sprung and bent the 24-foot tower during last year's effort. Ah well, casualties will occur.

Fred, K6YT, and his ever-efficient tri-band crew, hoisted the CW radiator with nary a hitch, as usual. Of course, if you have been up a tower as many times as Fred, the task could be done in your sleep. I liken Fred to the Eveready Rabbit (for those of you who eyeball the boob tube) - he just keeps goin' and goin' ... See ya on top again next year.

Field Day Saturday is an annual blur for me. Minimum relief, maximum operation. I had full control of the 15 meter phone band that day. The only real operating relief other than a Code 100 (figure it out, folks!) was to help Andy, VE3FZK, get our 5 solar-powered, 2 meter simplex bonus points. Now, for those of you who know Andy, you will also know that if it isn't covered with duct tape, it probably won't

I can't remember, however, if you were there when the blessed event took place, you would probably have likened it to a rendition of Buster Keaton and the Keystone Cops (you older folks remember them, don't you). Andy, Rob, KA6JLT, Dusty, KEMPN, and I were hoofing it around the site, one holding the rig and battery (held together with duct tape, of course), one the solar panel, another the duct-tape-encrusted antenna as high as ones body could stretch, and the last holding the mike, frantically calling ANYBODY for a contact. This lasted for a half-an-hour, changing duties, climbing to the highest point we could hold the antenna, then down to the end of the spit in the Bay (where the receiver front end got swamped by the 20 meter CW, not the Bay). And we finally secured our 5 contacts. Mission accomplished, I took a swing by the Novice show, and observed the laid back team of Melody and Steve racking in the points. Good show! With a fresh Slice soda in hand, I raced back to the 15 meter rig and peace.

My next emergence was evoked by the wafting of New York steak being barbecued in a secret (but HEAVENLY) sauce, next to the old trailer. Lili, N6HJM, had again brought her multitude of talents and wit, and provided the stalwarts and supporters with a fare of meat, salads, breads, and drink. Make it all worth it (you don't think I would do all this for FUN, do you!!!). (The BEST part of PAARA Field Day! -Ed.)

To shorten an already story too long, it was 15 meters till it died shortly past dark, and 40 meters till the head hit the table around 1 or 2 a.m. (lousy conditions led to boredom which led to slumber, I rest my case). Sunday morning, after advising numerous anxious operators in the ether that most were dopes, I gladly deferred my operation to Dudley, WB6WU and Joe, KB6OWG, who came by and graciously offered their services. They could (and did) have it till we closed down shop at 11 am.

Clean-up was a sleeeeeepy blur, but it happened.

I finally learned something this year. Next year I am going to bring an earphone splitter jack and an extra pair of earphones. Amazing how few people volunteer to dupe when they have to glean contacts from a speaker that is in direct competition with the noise from a 4 kw generator. PAARA operators, rise up and volunteer next year. We need y'all! That's all folks. Total memory used: 4.8k (honest, Wordstar 4.0 wouldn't lie). 73's, and 88's to the fair ones.

A Novice's Guide to Field Day

They say there's nothing like hands on experience (I wish they'd stop saying things like that), such is the case with Amateur Radio. My XYL (Melodye - N6YUM) and I had already had some experience with VHF and UHF, but until Field Day we had never ventured below 144 MHz. Prior to our trip into the HF realm, our VHF experience had given us a somewhat restricted view of what one could do with HAM radio. For example, our vision of working DX was to talk to Fremont. The bad news is that after experiencing the thrill of speaking with someone (although for a very brief period) in a foreign country, it looks we're going to have to invest in some HF equipment.

It didn't start out so thrilling; after showing up at WA6LNV's office for the pre-field day novice meeting, and being the only one there, I found myself the leader of the novice group. Fortunately Gerry had provided me with a long list of what I needed. Unfortunately, the next day we were leaving on vacation for a week, not to return until the week before field day. Melodye and I had most of the camping gear we needed (except tents), but our two Kenwood HT's weren't going to cut the mustard for field day.

One thing I've noticed about Ham Radio operators is that they're very willing to pitch in and help each other out by loaning each other equipment. Perhaps it's part of the community service spirit that is so much a part of HAM radio, or perhaps it's the opportunity to fool around with someone else's stuff, at any rate, with the help of Chuck (N6VFH) I connected with Bill (AA6PA), who loaned us a very nifty YAESU FT-767GX and a Butternut vertical.

The night before field day we hooked everything up and checked ourselves out on the transceiver just to make sure we wouldn't embarrass ourselves too much. By Friday morning, the day of the set up "party", I felt pretty confident we would do OK. When I arrived at the site there already was a lot of activity going on. After a quick check and ogle of the other equipment there, I started to assemble our antenna. The Field Day rules state that the Novices must set up their equipment themselves, however, if you've been counting, you no doubt noticed that the official novice team at this point consists of my XYL and myself, which makes two. Since Melodye was at work, I was working alone. Assembling an antenna by yourself is a simple task, however erecting one alone is another matter. Rules or no rules, I found some volunteers to help me with the guy wires. With the antenna setup, it was a simple matter to connect up the antenna to the transceiver, tune the antenna, and we were ready for Field Day.

By the time we got there, we were on pins and needles. The first order of business was to determine the call we would be working, since it was the XYL and myself, we flipped a coin, for once in my life I won, so we were using N6YUE. At 11:00 AM PDT, N6YUE went on the air, the first contacts came quickly and easily. After we dispatched with the local stuff, we started to listen for more remote contacts. Ten meters was pretty dead, and unfortunately we didn't have a key so we were stuck straining our ears for contacts between 28.3 and 28.5 MHz. During the day, some of the other Novice friends showed up (actually we pretty much all have our Technician class licenses), most notably Don (N6YWK) with his XYL and dog in tow. They stayed long enough to help out for a while. Things progressed pretty slowly through the rest of the afternoon, the only excitement being when we made a contact in Argentina, and a couple contacts in Hawaii. I'm not an expert in geography, but I think both these places are farther away than Fremont.

Long about 10:00 PM, a good section of the band we were working was taken up by someone working CW. Listening intently we heard: dit-dah-dah dah-dit-dit-dit-dit dah-dah-dah dah-dit-dit-dah, W6OTX, that call sounded kind of familiar. Stepping outside, we noted that the CW beam was pointing in the general direction of our vertical. We figured that that was most likely the source of our QRM. We also figured the chances of getting the CW team to rotate their beam for the Novice team were slim to none. This was a clear sign to call it quits for the evening.

The next morning we started early and were able to make a couple contacts, most notably in the Caribbean. Scanning around the band we heard a local station working quite a pile up. What made this station even more interesting was its call, W6OTX. A quick check of the logs indicated that it was no pirate, but the 20 meter team. At about 10:00 PDT N6YUE went off the air. Tired, dirty, in need of a shower we packed up our gear and left for home, vowing to return next year as part of the General-Advanced-Extra team.

All in all Melodye and I had a great time, and are busy studying for our general and advanced class licences.

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Notice

MEETING:
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AUG. 3RD!

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VE3FZK 90



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